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ABSTRACT

In 1997 an online survey of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth was conducted. The survey, which was available only on the Internet, was promoted through magazines and the World Wide Web. It contained more than 150 questions and took about half an hour to complete. Although all people accessing the web site were allowed to complete the survey, only surveys from respondents under 25 years old were used in the study. The questionnaire was designed to explore many areas of interest in the lives of homosexual, bisexual, and transgender youth, and included sections on: (1) general background; (2) about being queer; (3) the Internet; (4) school policies; (5) school groups; (6) school life; (6) sexual activity; (7) sexual health; (8) the media; (9) harassment; (10) suicide; (11) religion and spirituality; (12) "who I am"; (13) relationships; (14) community; and (15) the future. The Internet survey method allowed for possible sources of error, including falsification, the bias caused by Internet access, and bias introduced by the length of the survey. Although two-thirds of those who started it did not complete the survey, 3,061 complete surveys form the database. Survey data is now available to qualified scholars researching issues surrounding queer youth, social service, and government agencies working to set policy and determine priorities, and to authors who wish to make their needs more well-known. Data are available in a variety of formats. The survey and a summary of responses for each item are presented. (SLD)

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ED 419 854

The !OutProud!/Oasis Internet Survey of Queer and Questioning Youth

August to October 1997

conducted by

!OutProud!,
The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth

and

Oasis Magazine

Christopher Kryzan, !OutProud!
Jeff Walsh, Oasis
March 1998

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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Christopher Kryzan
!OutProud!

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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Early in 1997 !OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Oasis Magazine embarked on an ambitious project with the goal of understanding more about the queer youth communities we both serve. We believed that the organizations were uniquely positioned to reach queer youth – !OutProud! is visited by hundreds of youth each day at its home on the World Wide Web and its forum in America Online, and Oasis by more than 35,000 readers each month who read what is the oldest and most widely-read publication by and for queer youth.

The result of this collaboration was the !OutProud!/Oasis Internet Survey of Queer and Questioning Youth, an online project which ran from August 15 through October 31, 1997 and attracted several thousand participants. The survey results are now available in packaged form for qualified researchers, and this document is intended to provide the public with a summary of the results, opening a window on the lives of these youth.

Goals

We embarked upon this survey as a means of better addressing the target communities we were formed to serve. But our goals go much beyond this:

- We hoped to provide an in-depth look at the lives of queer and questioning youth, in a way that no other organization or research body has yet attempted. For far too long this community has been an "invisible minority" and we hoped to give a voice and shape to these youth so that they cannot be overlooked.
- We saw a unique opportunity to reach in-the-closet queer youth, a population unreachable by most other means, but who have found a vital and supportive home on the Internet and online services.
- We hoped to provide information which will be valuable to community service organizations in their outreach efforts, to social service agencies providing services to at-risk youth, to those organizing queer youth in the community and at school, and to those who set government policy, so that they may be accurately informed about the issues these youth face, and the needs which must be met.

We encourage broad use of this survey data and its results, and it is our fervent hope that many organizations and many people will find it a tool to do good works.

Methodology

The survey was conducted from August 15 through October 31, 1997. The survey was available only on the Internet, and was promoted through several vehicles, including:

- Front-page banner on Oasis magazine (www.oasismag.com)
- Advertisement in XY Magazine, a print publication oriented towards young gay men
- Banner ad in !OutProud! resource Web site (www.outproud.org)
- Banner ad in QueerAmerica referral Web site (www.queeramerica.com)

- Front-page button in the !OutProud! forum on America Online (keyword OUTPROUD)
- Mentions in several periodicals, including The Advocate
- Extensive online promotion and probable cross-linking from newsgroups and other Web sites

These vehicles were useful in that they had a strong reach into the target audience. Ultimately, Oasis Magazine proved to generate the most traffic, with more than 60% of survey respondents taking the survey after coming from reading Oasis, and another 30% from the !OutProud! AOL forum and Web areas.

Once at the site, potential respondents were presented with a welcome letter that described the scope of the survey, included a list of advisors and sponsors to establish credibility, and clearly set forth what would be required of the participant. We felt it was necessary to adequately set expectations up-front – with more than 150 questions, many of which were multi-part, we believed that the survey was likely to take about one-half hour to complete (beta testing of the survey assisted in adjusting content to achieve this goal). Actual results were on-track, with a mean completion time of 29 minutes.

When the participant agreed to participate by selecting the "Start" button, they were then presented with the first page of the survey. At this time, they were assigned a unique ID number (unknown to them, it was transparently attached to all of the dynamically-served Web pages). This ID number was active for approximately two hours, after which time they could not go back to the specific copy of the survey with which they were working. A timestamp-based check string was also assigned. Once a page was completed and submitted, it was logged into the database. Once a survey was completed, it could no longer be accessed and it was "locked down" to prevent further access by anyone other than the survey administrator. This was believed to be necessary for several reasons:

- We did not want potential saboteurs to find a way to destroy any survey data that had already been collected.
- We did not want people to modify their survey responses once they had completed it. It was designed to be completed at one sitting, and in a particular order.

All survey data was recorded in a Butler SQL database from Everyware Development running on a Power Macintosh system. This allowed for regular access to results throughout the project; although this capability was not extensively used, it did provide for "tweaking" of questions and response gathering mechanisms during its beta period, prior to going "online."

Survey pages were dynamically created from the database using Tango software (also from Everyware Development). This allowed us to customize presentation based on responses. For example, only those respondents in school were presented with the three pages of questions relating to school. Males received survey pages on sexuality that differed from those of females. This capability holds promise for far greater customization in the future.

We allowed anyone who accessed the Web site to complete a survey, even though they might not be within our target group. This was done specifically to minimize fictitious entries, the thought being that someone older than 25 might want to participate in the survey, or to see what it was all about, and would make up an age that was younger to do so. By allowing them to complete the survey (as, in fact, many people did – the oldest respondent was 68 years old), we were able to simply eliminate those results in the analysis phase.

More than 10,000 individuals began the survey (took at least the first page), and 3,207 completed the survey in its entirety. Dropouts could have any one of a number of reasons, including length of time to complete the survey, boredom, or technical issues such as loss of connection.

Of the 3,207 completed surveys, 3,061 were designated "valid" and represent the totality of the database.

- 7 were removed because the age field had erroneous information (text or the number "0")
- 139 were removed for individuals who reported their age as 30 or older (the highest age was 65 years old).

These 3,061 records are available as an SQL database (as well as in FileMaker Pro, Microsoft Excel, and text formats). For the purposes of this report, we further restricted our sample, to those youth 25 years of age and under, for a total of 1,960 respondents.

Terminology

We used the standard convention for Oasis Magazine in referring to sexual orientation: "Gay,", "lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender" are encompassed in the word "queer," which was used throughout this survey to interchangeably refer to any of these categories.

We provided an explanation of our choice of terms to the readers, particularly for those who might have felt uncomfortable with the word "queer." We believe it to be the most inclusive term applied to the community, however. In addition, we chose to include transgender identification as gender (rather than where it is sometimes grouped, with sexual orientation).

Topics

The survey was designed to explore many different areas of interest in the lives of queer youth. Ultimately it included these sections:

- **General Questions** - To provide a demographic profile of the respondent.
- **About Being Queer** - To gain insight into when they discovered they were queer and how their coming out process went.
- **The Internet** - This survey was unique in its presentation vehicle, and drew from the Internet community of queer youth. We wanted to understand more about their usage patterns and what role it plays in their life.
- **School Policies** - We hoped to gain a perspective of how the educational system is responding, systematically, to the needs of queer youth.
- **School Groups** - Queer youth support and organizing is taking off and we hoped to better understand the scope of this expansion.
- **School Life** - The teen years can be trying for anyone, and often particularly so for queer youth, who typically have many additional elements of "differentness." We wanted to explore how "out" these youth were in school, and what type of environment they lived in day to day.
- **Sexual Activity** - Sex and affection are at the root of sexual orientation issues, and we hoped to understand exactly what sexual behaviors these youth were involved in, as a

means to better understand how they came to label themselves as queer, and to assist with educational and therapeutic efforts with this community.

- **Sexual Health** - Most queer youth have grown up in a world that has always known HIV and AIDS, in a time where safer sex has become a necessity of life. We wanted to understand the impact, and shortcomings, of educational efforts geared at providing the information these youth need to live well, and in good health.
- **The Media** - Queer youth's attitudes about themselves and their self-esteem is impacted by many forces in their lives: parents, families, friends, religious institutions, their schools, and more. The media plays a very strong role, and we hoped to better understand how the imagery they are presented with each day impacts their own views of self, and possibility. We also hoped to understand better which media within the queer community they had access to, and read.
- **Harassment** - Significant numbers of anecdotal reports indicate a high level of harassment and safety issues for queer youth. Hate crimes reporting at the federal level indicates it is an issue for the general queer population. We hoped to add fact to any fiction, and to provide a basis for quantifying the role fear, intimidation and violence play in their lives.
- **Suicide** - It is widely reported that queer youth face suicide rates three times that of the national average for youth. Additional research over the last couple of years seems to bear that out. We hoped to hear, firsthand, whether this was the case, and to what extent self-esteem issues played a role in the survivability of these youth.
- **Religion and Spirituality** - In the last ten years there has been a concerted effort by organized religion – Christian fundamentalists, specifically – to narrowly define religion in a way that serves specific goals of power and politics. As a result, many queer youth feel disenfranchised, at best, or worse, condemned to eternal damnation unless they become straight or are forever chaste. We hoped to find out how these youth reconcile their spirituality with their sexual orientation, to provide tools to enlightened churches to help these youth find spiritual comfort.
- **Who I Am** – We wanted to gather some specific data on the self-esteem of these youth, and their comfort level with being queer.
- **Relationships** – Past generations of queer men and women living in the closet have grown up differently, the very nature of their relationships colored with shame. We hoped to see how contemporary role models and the dynamics of youth coming out at ever-earlier ages was changing this.
- **Community** – For perhaps the first time in history this generation of queer youth is growing up in a world where they can ever-more-frequently choose to grow up openly queer, and to join the broader queer community. We wanted to understand how these youth have reached out, where they have found friendship and support, and at some level, their awareness of this community. We were also interested in whether these youth wanted to integrate into the broader queer community, given that more and more teens are becoming accepted within their presumably-straight circle of friends.
- **The Future** – The issues and pressures facing queer youth are ones that often can put limitations on one's world view, and one's expectations of the life they can achieve.

We wanted to better understand exactly to what these youth aspired, and the obstacles they saw their sexual orientation as presenting.

Sources of Error

Like any survey of this type, there are several opportunities for error to be introduced into the data. These include:

- **People could falsify their age**. However, by allowing the respondents to enter any age, we believe this helped to minimize the number of individuals that would do so (e.g. someone interested in seeing the survey would have to falsify their age if we prevented responses outside of the target age range.
- **People could falsify any of the demographic data**. There were no controls on this, as one might have in a face to face interview. However, there were fewer reasons to do so then if this were not an anonymous survey where a youth might perceive themselves at risk of exposure if they were in the closet.
- **Bias introduced by the means of administration**. This survey was administered over the Internet and therefore, all respondents necessarily had to have access to a computer that was connected to the Internet. Further, frequent use of computers and the Internet still appears to have relationship to gender, and that may have prevented access to a larger base of female respondents. Also, while available in libraries and schools, access to computers may self-select a base of respondents that are somewhat more affluent, although anecdotal data suggests that this is lessening over time.
- **Bias introduced by length of the survey**. The survey took approximately thirty minutes to complete. More than two-thirds of the respondents who began the survey did not complete it.

Attribution

Proper attribution for any research project or article that makes use of this data or cites this survey should as follows:

Name of survey: !OutProud!/Oasis Internet Survey of Queer and Questioning Youth

Sponsors: !OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Oasis Magazine

Date of publication: March 1998

The above information must appear in any and all citations. Additionally, the following may be included:

Date of administration: August-October 1997

Contact information: survey@outproud.org

Survey Analysis Package

Survey data is available to qualified scholars researching issues surrounding today's queer youth, social service and government agencies working to set policy and determine priorities, and to authors who wish to make their needs more well-known. The data is available in a variety of formats that can be imported into most other database applications on the Macintosh, Windows and Unix.

The complete package of materials we can provide includes:

- Survey Overview (PDF file)
- Survey (PDF file of questions)
- Data Dictionary (PDF file)
- Database in one of the following formats: FileMaker Pro, dBase IV, tab-delimited text, WKS worksheet (Microsoft Excel), DIF (data interchange format)

An overview of the questionnaire and the contents of the analysis package is available at:

http://www.outproud.org/survey/overview.html

If you are interested in using this information in your work, we invite you to submit a brief application of your interest. We ask for the following information:

- Your name, organization (if appropriate), address, phone and email address.
- A brief synopsis of your intended use of the data. Will you be writing an article, is this to be the basis of a scholarly paper, etc.
- Two professional references affiliated with an educational institution or a service organization working for the queer community.

This information should be sent to survey@outproud.org.

About !OutProud!

!OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth was founded in 1993 to provide advocacy, information, resources and support with the goal of helping queer youth to become happy, successful, confident and vital gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adults. The organization pioneered outreach to in-the-closet and openly queer teens through America Online and the Internet, and today serves more than 100,000 youth each year with referrals and self-help resources, and activists and educators with organizing and training materials. Christopher Kryzan is Executive Director of !OutProud!

!OutProud! is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation based in San Rafael, California, and provides services both to individuals and to other agencies working for the benefit of queer youth. The organization can be contacted at !OutProud!, 369 Third Street, Suite B-362, San Rafael, CA 94901-3581; phone: 415-460-5452; fax: 415-460-5451; email: survey@outproud.org.

About Oasis Magazine

Oasis has published monthly since its inception in December 1995. It features over 50 young columnists ranging in age from 13 to their mid 20s. Over 35,000 readers visit Oasis each month at www.oasismag.com to read about their lives as queer and questioning youth. A larger queer

youth online service is expected to be launched by Oasis Magazine in early 1998. Jeff Walsh is the founder of Oasis Magazine.

The organization may be contacted at Oasis Magazine, 584 Castro Street, Suite 349, San Francisco, CA 94114; ph: 415-487-9477; survey@oasismag.com.

Acknowledgments

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General Questions

A. Respondents arrived from the following sources.

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
63%	Oasis magazine
18%	!OutProud! AOL
13%	!OutProud! Web
4%	XY Magazine
2%	QueerAmerica

B. The length to progress from the first page to the last was calculated.

Percent	Response (n=1,960, mean=29 minutes)
8%	15 minutes or less
60%	16 to 30 minutes
21%	31 to 45 minutes
11%	More than 45 minutes

1. Age.

Percent	Response (n=1,960, mean=18.0 years old)
0.1%	10 years old (n=1)
0.1%	11 years old (n=2)
0.5%	12 years old (n=9)
2%	13 years old (n=30)
4%	14 years old (n=88)
10%	15 years old (n=194)
15%	16 years old (n=291)
16%	17 years old (n=318)
14%	18 years old (n=277)
13%	19 years old (n=249)
7%	20 years old (n=134)
7%	21 years old (n=129)
4%	22 years old (n=78)
4%	23 years old (n=75)
3%	24 years old (n=50)
2%	25 years old (n=35)

2. Gender.

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
78%	Male (n=1,525)
21%	Female (n=414)
1%	Transgender M2F (n=17)
0.1%	Transgender F2M (n=2)
0.1%	Other (n=2)

3. Sexual orientation.

Male (n=1,525)	Female (n=414)	M2F (n=17)	F2M (n=2)	Response (n=1,525)
64%	48%	41%	50%	Gay/Lesbian
23%	38%	18%	–	Bisexual
11%	11%	24%	50%	Questioning/Unsure
1%	3%	18%	–	Heterosexual

4. Ethnic background.

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
80%	Caucasian (n=1,567)
7%	Other (n=145)
6%	Asian (n=120)
3%	Latino/a (n=62)
2%	African-American (n=42)
1%	Native American (n=25)

5. Is respondent currently enrolled in school?

Percent	Response (n=1,943)
84%	Yes
16%	No

6. With whom does the respondent live?

Percent	Response (n=1,957)
63%	With my parents/family
14%	In school housing with roommates
9%	By myself
8%	With others (roommates, group housing) not at school
4%	With a significant other
1%	Other

7. What is their primary occupation?

Percent	Response (n=1,955)
3%	Elementary/middle school student (n=57)
44%	High school student (n=851)
37%	College/university student (n=729)
0.4%	Military (n=7)
6%	Managerial/professional (n=120)
8%	Other employed (n=150)
2%	Unemployed (n=41)

8. What is the highest level of education they have completed?

Percent	Response (n=1,952)
7%	Elementary/middle school
39%	Some high school
16%	High school degree or equivalency
30%	Some college
6%	College/university degree
1%	Advanced degree
1%	Other

About Being Queer

1. At what age were they first aware that they might be queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,916, mean=12.2 years old, median=13.0 years old)
0.2%	3 years old
1%	4 years old
3%	5 years old
2%	6 years old
2%	7 years old
3%	8 years old
3%	9 years old
7%	10 years old
8%	11 years old
19%	12 years old
18%	13 years old
13%	14 years old
9%	15 years old
5%	16 years old
3%	17 years old
2%	18 years old
1%	19 years old
1%	20 years old
0.4%	21 years old
0.1%	22 years old

2. At what age did they first accept their sexual orientation?

Percent	Response (n=1,603, mean=15.6 years old, median=16.0 years old)
0.1%	3 years old
0.2%	4 years old
0.1%	5 years old
0.3%	6 years old
0.1%	7 years old
0.2%	8 years old
0.4%	9 years old
1%	10 years old
1%	11 years old

4%	12 years old
8%	13 years old
12%	14 years old
14%	15 years old
13%	16 years old
9%	17 years old
8%	18 years old
4%	19 years old
3%	20 years old
2%	21 years old
1%	22 years old
0.4%	23 years old
0.1%	24 years old
0.1%	25 years old

4. Have they told anyone that they are queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,922)
75%	Yes
25%	No

5. Who was the first person they told they were queer? (Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)

Percent	Response (n=1,463)
46%	My best friend
22%	Friends at school
15%	Friends outside of school or work
6%	Mother
4%	Brother or sister
3%	Father
2%	Friends at work
2%	One or more teachers

6. How old were they when they told the first person that they were queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,434, mean=16.3 years old, median=16.7 years old)
0.1%	7 years old (n=2)
0.1%	8 years old (n=1)
0.1%	9 years old (n=2)
0.3%	10 years old (n=5)
1%	11 years old (n=13)
2%	12 years old (n=26)
6%	13 years old (n=993)
12%	14 years old (n=176)
16%	15 years old (n=234)
17%	16 years old (n=249)
15%	17 years old (n=219)
13%	18 years old (n=189)
7%	19 years old (n=99)
4%	20 years old (n=52)
2%	21 years old (n=33)
2%	22 years old (n=22)
1%	23 years old (n=11)
0.5%	24 years old (n=7)
0.1%	25 years old (n=1)

7. Who have they ever told that they were queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4, checked all that applied.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,434)
76%	My best friend
66%	Friends at school
61%	Friends outside of school or work
49%	Mother
38%	Brother or sister
36%	Father
30%	One or more teachers

8. How did their father react upon being told that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=578, mean=3.3)
24%	Very good (5)
20%	Good (4)
32%	OK (3)
14%	Bad (2)
11%	Very bad (1)

9. How did their mother react upon being told that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=762, mean=3.5)
28%	Very good (5)
22%	Good (4)
28%	OK (3)
14%	Bad (2)
8%	Very bad (1)

10. How did their brother or sister react upon being told that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=605, mean=4.1)
46%	Very good (5)
28%	Good (4)
19%	OK (3)
4%	Bad (2)
4%	Very bad (1)

11. How did their best friend react upon being told that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,216, mean=4.5)
71%	Very good (5)
18%	Good (4)
8%	OK (3)
2%	Bad (2)
2%	Very bad (1)

12 Why haven't they told anyone that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "No" to question 4, checked all that applied.)*

Percent	Response (n=637 est.)
61%	I'm scared of how my parents might react
53%	I am afraid of how my friends might react
44%	I am afraid of losing my friends
41%	The time just hasn't been right yet
39%	I am still coming to terms with being queer myself
35%	My friends seem to be very homophobic
33%	My parents seem to be very homophobic
32%	I think this might be a phase or I'm unsure if I really am queer
30%	I want to wait until I move out of my parents' house
27%	I want to wait until I am older
20%	I am afraid that my parents will kick me out of the house
17%	I don't want to be queer, and hope that I might change
13%	I want to wait until I go to college

13. Do they want to tell someone that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "No" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=641)
64%	Yes
36%	No

14. Do they plan to tell someone that they are queer? *(Asked only of those who responded "No" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=632)
51%	Yes
49%	No

The Internet

1. Service were they using to connect to the Internet at the time they started the survey.

Percent	Response (n=1,947)
58%	Other
31%	America Online
5%	Microsoft Network
3%	Netcom
2%	Earthlink
1%	AT&T
1%	Compuserve
1%	Prodigy

2. Length of time they have been online (on the Internet or an online service)?

Percent	Response (n=1,950)
4%	Less than one month
4%	One to three months
6%	Three to six months
15%	Six months to one year
45%	One to three years
25%	More than three years

3. How often do they go online?

Percent	Response (n=1,944)
38%	Several times a day
47%	Once or twice a day
13%	Once or twice a week
1%	Once or twice a month
1%	Once in a while

4. How much time a day do they spend online?

Percent	Response (n=1,944)
6%	Less than 30 minutes
15%	Less than one hour
42%	One to two hours
28%	Two to five hours
5%	Five to eight hours
4%	Eight or more hours

5. Did they come out on the Internet or on an online service before they did in "real life"?

Percent	Response (n=1,918)
51%	Yes
49%	No

6. Has being online helped them to accept their sexual orientation?

Percent	Response (n=1,929)
68%	Yes
15%	No
18%	I don't know

7. Has being online been crucial to accepting their sexual orientation? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 6.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,298)
51%	Yes
32%	No
17%	I don't know

8. How do they spend most of their time online? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 6.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,939)
29%	Surfing the Web
21%	Visiting specific Web sites (I know where I want to go before I go on)
19%	Reading and sending email
13%	Chatting on IRC channels
12%	Chatting in AOL chat rooms
3%	Reading Internet newsgroups
3%	Reading AOL message boards

School Policies

1. Does their school have a written policy to protect students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=837)	College (n=698)	Response
9%	20%	46%	Yes
33%	35%	20%	No
58%	45%	34%	I don't know

2. Does their school have a written policy to protect the faculty and staff from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation?

Elem. (n-56)	H.S. (n=838)	College (n-697)	Response
16%	16%	35%	Yes
25%	25%	16%	No
60%	59%	49%	I don't know

3. Does their school have a written policy to protect students and staff from harassment?

Elem. (n=56)	H.S. (n=838)	College (n=697)	Response
50%	68%	74%	Yes
16%	8%	6%	No
34%	24%	19%	I don't know

4. Have there been incidents of anti-queer harassment or violence at their school?

Elem. (n=56)	H.S. (n=830)	College (n=654)	Response
39%	36%	41%	Never
43%	35%	42%	Once or twice
14%	16%	11%	Somewhat frequently
2%	7%	3%	Frequently
2%	6%	2%	All the time

5. How has the school dealt with these instances? (Not asked of those responding "No" to question 4).

Elem. (n=37)	H.S. (n=526)	College (n=367)	Response
43%	42%	34%	They were ignored
43%	43%	40%	A very light reprimand was given
11%	12%	17%	The students were suspended
3%	2%	10%	The students were expelled and/or criminal charges were filed against them

6. Does their school discuss homosexuality in the classroom? (Not asked of those responding "No" to question 4).

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=833)	College (n=683)	Response
7%	6%	17%	Yes, in a positive manner
7%	33%	37%	Yes, in a neutral manner
5%	11%	5%	Yes, in a negative manner
72%	43%	26%	No
9%	7%	15%	I don't know

7. Does their school provide the staff with workshops and training on issues relating to being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

Elem. (n-56)	H.S. (n=834)	College (n=691)	Response
2%	6%	23%	Yes
32%	55%	30%	No
66%	39%	48%	I don't know

8. Are they aware if there is information or books on being queer in the school library?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=837)	College (n=694)	Response
16%	27%	60%	Yes
51%	32%	11%	No
33%	41%	29%	I don't know

9. Have they looked in the library for books on being queer? (Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 8).

Elem. (n=26)	H.S. (n-380)	College (n=475)	Response
69%	58%	65%	Yes
31%	42%	35%	No

School Groups

1. Has anyone ever tried to start a gay/straight alliance at their school?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=841)	College (n=699)	Response
5%	9%	55%	Yes, they were successful
4%	4%	6%	Yes, they were not successful
67%	73%	26%	No, not that I am aware of
25%	13%	13%	I don't know

2. Is there a gay/straight alliance at their school?

Elem. (n=55)	H.S. (n=841)	College (n=697)	Response
5%	9%	57%	Yes
76%	74%	29%	No (proceed to question #8)
18%	17%	14%	I don't know (proceed to question #8)

3. Have they ever gone to a meeting?

Elem. (n=10)	H.S. (n=128)	College (n=418)	Response
20%	27%	20%	Yes, I liked it a lot
10%	5%	10%	Yes, I liked it somewhat
10%	9%	11%	Yes, it was OK
–	1%	4%	Yes, I didn't really like it
–	2%	2%	Yes, I didn't like it at all
60%	55%	53%	No, I have never gone to a meeting

4. How often have they gone to meetings? *(Not asked of those responding "No" to question 3).*

Elem. (n=4)	H.S. (n=59)	College (n=195)	Response
50%	29%	18%	I only went to one meeting
50%	14%	37%	I have gone to a few meetings
–	58%	45%	I go to most of the meetings

5. Has the school administration been supportive of the group?

Elem. (n=8)	H.S. (n=107)	College (n=405)	Response
13%	36%	21%	Yes, they helped it get started
13%	28%	35%	Yes, but only moderately
13%	3%	4%	They have not been very supportive
–	1%	2%	They have not been supportive at all
25%	3%	1%	The administration tried to prevent the group from forming
38%	30%	38%	I'm not sure

6. Has the group ever faced any problems from other students or the administration?

Elem. (n=8)	H.S. (n=107)	College (n=404)	Response
63%	51%	40%	No, not that I am aware of
13%	21%	35%	I'm not sure
–	22%	15%	Yes, from students
13%	1%	2%	Yes, from the administration
13%	5%	8%	Yes, from both students and the administration

7. How were these problems dealt with? *(Not asked of those responding "Yes" to question 6).*

Elem. (n=6)	H.S. (n=48)	College (n=124)	Response
33%	40%	22%	The administration was supportive of the group
–	6%	19%	Both sides eventually resolved their differences
17%	35%	24%	They have not yet been resolved
17%	2%	–	The school shut down the group
33%	17%	25%	I don't know

8. Are they aware of the provisions of the Equal Access Act [20 U.S.C. p. 4071)?

Elem. (n=55)	H.S. (n=840)	College (n=694)	Response
11%	24%	41%	Yes, I was aware that I have this right
89%	76%	59%	No, I wasn't aware of this

School Life

1. Has anyone at their school taken a date of the same gender to the prom?

Elem. (n=56)	H.S. (n=840)	College (n=692)	Response
11%	19%	25%	Yes
61%	43%	40%	No
29%	38%	35%	I don't know

2. Would they like to take a date of the same gender to the prom?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=839)	College (n=678)	Response
30%	45%	45%	Yes
30%	26%	29%	No
40%	29%	26%	Maybe

3. Do they believe that one or more students at their school think that they are queer?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=840)	College (n=691)	Response
58%	69%	70%	Yes
21%	15%	15%	No
21%	16%	15%	I don't know

4. Have they told any students at their school that they are queer?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=840)	College (n=691)	Response
7%	13%	16%	Yes, most of the students at school know
5%	17%	25%	Yes, several students at school know
21%	28%	23%	Yes, one or two close friends at school know
67%	25%	35%	No

5. Do they believe that one or more faculty members at their school think that they are queer?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=839)	College (n=693)	Response
32%	37%	41%	Yes
37%	42%	41%	No
32%	21%	19%	I don't know

6. Overall, how have the teachers they believe know they are queer treated them? *(Not asked of those responding "No" to question 5).*

Elem. (n=26)	H.S. (n=379)	College (n=340)	Response
8%	14%	13%	Much Better, with support and respect
8%	11%	13%	Better
69%	67%	72%	Indifferent, no better and no worse
12%	7%	1%	Somewhat worse
–	1%	1%	4%
4%	0.3%	–	Much worse, they ridicule or make fun of me to my face

7. Have they told any teachers at their school that they are queer?

Elem. (n=57)	H.S. (n=832)	College (n=688)	Response
2%	4%	5%	Yes, most of the teachers at school know
2%	4%	9%	Yes, several of the teachers at school know
12%	14%	18%	Yes, one or two teachers at school know
84%	78%	68%	No

Sexual Activity

1. Have they ever been the recipient of oral sex from someone of the same gender?

Gay (n=974)	Bi Male (n=350)	Unsure M (n=173)	Response
66%	66%	39%	Yes
34%	34%	61%	No
0.2%	–	–	I don't know

Lesbian (n=191)	Bi Fem (n=156)	Unsure F (n=46)	Response
50%	39%	13%	Yes
49%	60%	87%	No
0.5%	0.6%	–	I don't know

2. Have they ever given oral sex to someone of the same gender?

Gay (n=969)	Bi Male (n=347)	Unsure M (n=172)	Response
68%	67%	37%	Yes
32%	33%	63%	No
0.1%	–	–	I don't know

Lesbian (n=192)	Bi Fem (n=156)	Unsure F (n=47)	Response
48%	35%	15%	Yes
52%	64%	85%	No
–	1%	–	I don't know

3. Have they ever been the recipient of oral sex from someone of the opposite gender?

Gay (n=969)	Bi Male (n=346)	Unsure M (n=173)	Response
16%	43%	22%	Yes
84%	57%	77%	No
0.1%	–	0.6%	I don't know

Lesbian (n=191)	Bi Fem (n=156)	Unsure F (n=47)	Response
34%	52%	43%	Yes
66%	47%	57%	No
–	0.6%	–	I don't know

4. Have they ever given oral sex to someone of the opposite gender?

Gay (n=963)	Bi Male (n=346)	Unsure M (n=173)	Response
9%	35%	16%	Yes
91%	64%	84%	No
0.1%	0.6%	0.6%	I don't know

Lesbian (n=191)	Bi Fem (n=154)	Unsure F (n=47)	Response
35%	54%	38%	Yes
65%	45%	60%	No
0.5%	1%	2%	I don't know

5. Number of respondents who have ever been the recipient of anal sex with another male.

Gay (n=965)	Bi Male (n=349)	Unsure M (n=172)	Response
42%	40%	17%	Yes
58%	60%	83%	No
0.4%	0.3%	–	I don't know

Lesbian (n=191)	Bi Fem (n=154)	Unsure F (n=47)	Response
7%	18%	6%	Yes
93%	82%	94%	No
–	0.6%	–	I don't know

6. Males who have ever been the penetrator in anal sex with another male.

Gay (n=972)	Bi Male (n=349)	Unsure M (n=172)	Response
41%	40%	17%	Yes
59%	60%	82%	No
0.4%	–	1%	I don't know

7. Males who have ever been the penetrator in anal sex with a female.

Gay (n=961)	Bi Male (n=344)	Unsure M (n=171)	Response
1%	11%	1%	Yes
99%	89%	99%	No
–	–	–	I don't know

8. Males who have ever engaged in vaginal sex with a female.

Gay (n=967)	Bi Male (n=346)	Unsure M (n=171)	Response
14%	41%	19%	Yes
85%	59%	81%	No
0.3%	0.3%	–	I don't know

9. Females who have ever had vaginal sex with another female using a sex toy.

Lesbian (n=191)	Bi Fem (n=151)	Unsure F (n=47)	Response
18%	18%	6%	Yes
82%	82%	94%	No
–	–	–	I don't know

10. Age at their first sexual experience of any sort.

Gay (n=963, mean=14.4)	Bi Male (n=346, mean=13.6)	Unsure M (n=173, mean=14.0)	Response
16%	25%	16%	under 12 years old
8%	9%	9%	12 years old
8%	10%	3%	13 years old
10%	8%	4%	14 years old
7%	8%	5%	15 years old
7%	10%	6%	16 years old
6%	5%	2%	17 years old
7%	2%	5%	18 years old
3%	2%	1%	19 years old
1%	0.6%	1%	20 years old
0.8%	0.6%	1%	21 years old
0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	22 years old
0.1%	–	–	23 years old
–	–	0.6%	over 23 years old
25%	19%	46%	I have not yet had sex (proceed to question #15)

Lesbian (n=191, mean=14.5)	Bi Fem (n=155, mean=14.0)	Unsure F (n=54, mean=13.9)	Response
13%	25%	16%	under 12 years old
7%	9%	9%	12 years old
6%	10%	3%	13 years old
9%	8%	4%	14 years old
10%	8%	5%	15 years old
9%	10%	6%	16 years old
8%	5%	2%	17 years old

4%	2%	5%	18 years old
2%	2%	1%	19 years old
1%	0.6%	1%	20 years old
–	0.6%	1%	21 years old
0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	22 years old
–	–	–	23 years old
–	–	0.6%	over 23 years old
30%	19%	46%	I have not yet had sex (proceed to question #15)

11. Age at their first sexual experience with someone of the same gender.

Gay (n=709, mean=14.9)	Bi Male (n=264, mean=14.3)	Unsure M (n=88, mean=13.7)	Response
17%	23%	34%	under 12 years old
9%	12%	18%	12 years old
9%	10%	9%	13 years old
11%	11%	3%	14 years old
11%	8%	8%	15 years old
11%	12%	7%	16 years old
10%	9%	8%	17 years old
11%	8%	6%	18 years old
5%	4%	2%	19 years old
2%	3%	1%	20 years old
2%	0.4%	2%	21 years old
1%	0.4%	–	22 years old
0.4%	0.4%	–	23 years old
–	–	1%	over 23 years old

Lesbian (n=124, mean=16.0)	Bi Fem (n=n=96, mean=15.7)	Unsure F (n=115 mean=14.9)	Response
6%	14%	27%	under 12 years old
4%	3%	7%	12 years old
9%	7%	–	13 years old
10%	9%	7%	14 years old
15%	8%	13%	15 years old
15%	17%	20%	16 years old

10%	8%	20%	17 years old
13%	20%	–	18 years old
8%	6%	–	19 years old
4%	3%	–	20 years old
3%	3%	–	21 years old
2%	–	–	22 years old
1%	–	–	23 years old
–	1%	7%	over 23 years old

12. Difference in age of the first person of the same gender with whom they had sex *(age difference reported is how much older the respondent's partner was).*

Gay (n=699, mean=+2.7)	Bi Male (n=261, mean=+1.6)	Unsure M (n=85, mean=+2.9)	Response
0.3%	0.4%	–	5 years or more younger
0.3%	%	–	4 years younger
1%	1%	–	3 years younger
3%	3%	4%	2 years younger
7%	10%	4%	1 year younger
30%	42%	42%	Same age
16%	15%	11%	1 year older
10%	7%	6%	2 years older
6%	4%	7%	3 years older
6%	4%	2%	4 years older
3%	3%	4%	5 years older
3%	3%	2%	6 years older
2%	1%	2%	7 years older
2%	1%	1%	8 years older
2%	1%	2%	9 years older
10%	6%	13%	10 or more years older

Lesbian (n=118, mean=+1.2)	Bi Fem (n=87, mean=+1.4)	Unsure F (n=13, mean=+0.6)	Response
–	–	–	5 years or more younger
–	–	–	2%
2%	1%	–	3 years younger
1%	3%	–	2 years younger

9%	9%	8%	1 year younger
34%	31%	46%	Same age
23%	20%	31%	1 year older
9%	16%	8%	2 years older
12%	6%	8%	3 years older
5%	3%	–	4 years older
3%	3%	–	5 years older
–	3%	–	6 years older
–	–	–	7 years older
–	–	–	8 years older
1%	1%	–	9 years older
2%	2%	–	10 or more years older

13. How would they best describe their first sexual experience?

Gay (n=719)	Bi Male (n=277)	Unsure M (n=97)	Response
44%	51%	36%	Positive, I feel good about it
13%	13%	10%	Positive, but I wish I had waited until later in my life
16%	14%	20%	Indifferent, I don't think about it one way or the other
20%	12%	15%	Negative, I wish I had waited until later in my life or that it was with someone else
7%	11%	19%	Negative, I feel that I was taken advantage of

Lesbian (n=132)	Bi Fem (n=106)	Unsure F (n=26)	Response
54%	44%	23%	Positive, I feel good about it
9%	10%	12%	Positive, but I wish I had waited until later in my life
12%	23%	15%	Indifferent, I don't think about it one way or the other
13%	13%	19%	Negative, I wish I had waited until later in my life or that it was with someone else
12%	9%	31%	Negative, I feel that I was taken advantage of

14. Males who have ever had unprotected sex (without a condom) with someone because their partner did not want to use a condom.

Percent	Response (n-1,101)
16%	Yes
84%	No

15. Females who have ever had unprotected sex (without a condom or dental dam) with someone because that person did not want to use a condom or dental dam.

Percent	Response (n=278)
31%	Yes
69%	No

16. Males who have ever had unprotected sex (without a condom) with someone because their partner did not want the respondent to use a condom.

Percent	Response (n=1,099)
17%	Yes
83%	No

17. Females who have ever had unprotected sex (without a dental dam) with someone because that person did not want the respondent to use a dental dam?

Percent	Response (n=271)
13%	Yes
87%	No

18. Would they have unprotected oral sex (without a dental dam or condom) with someone they believed was HIV-negative.

Male (n=1,503)	Female (n=405)	Response
53%	37%	Yes
29%	34%	Maybe
18%	29%	No

19. Males who would have unprotected anal sex (without a condom) and females who would have unprotected vaginal sex with someone they believed was HIV-negative.

Male (n=1,504)	Female (n=405)	Response
19%	16%	Yes
23%	24%	Maybe
57%	59%	No

20. Would they have protected sex (of any sort) with someone they knew was HIV-positive?

Male (n=1,509)	Female (n=405)	Response
12%	11%	Yes
25%	31%	Maybe
63%	58%	No

21. Would they have sex with someone whom they had just met and knew they would most likely never see again?

Male (n=1,503)	Female (n=408)	Response
17%	15%	Yes
37%	28%	Maybe
46%	57%	No

Sexual Health

1. Do they feel that they have enough knowledge about AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases to make decisions about safer sex in their life?

Percent	Response (n=1,948)
87%	Yes
5%	No
8%	I'm not sure

2. Are there issues related to AIDS/HIV which they don't completely understand and would like to know more about?

Percent	Response (n=1,945)
29%	Yes
54%	No
17%	I'm not sure

3. Where do they obtain most of their information about safer sex and about AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases?

Percent	Response (n=1,920)
41%	Sex education classes in school
24%	The Internet, World Wide Web or other online services
10%	Television
9%	Counselors, or other adults outside of your family
8%	Friends, word-of-mouth
5%	Teen-related magazines
4%	Parents
0.3%	Brothers or sisters

4. Are they comfortable asking a sexual partner about their sexual history?

Percent	Response (n=1,907)
83%	Yes
17%	No

5. Of 1,905 respondents, 67% report having oral sex and use a condom or dental dam with this frequency.

Percent	Response (n=1,279)
5%	Always
5%	Most of the time
17%	Sometimes
73%	Never

6. Of 1,902 respondents, 40% report having anal sex and use a condom with this frequency.

Percent	Response (n=769)
42%	Always
21%	Most of the time
21%	Sometimes
16%	Never

7. Of 1,892 respondents, 26% report having vaginal sex and use a condom or dental dam with this frequency.

Percent	Response (n=485)
40%	Always
19%	Most of the time
21%	Sometimes
20%	Never

8. Would they have sex with someone with whom they were not in a relationship?

Percent	Response (n=1,932)
31%	Yes
42%	Maybe
27%	No

9. Are they aware that confidential and anonymous AIDS testing is available at many local health departments and through the mail?

Percent	Response (n=1,937)
91%	Yes, I am aware of this
9%	No, I wasn't aware of this

10. Are they aware that it is best to only go where they can get tested on both a confidential and anonymous basis?

Percent	Response (n=2,019)
82%	Yes, I knew that
18%	No, I didn't know that

The Media

1. How do they feel the media (newspapers, movies, magazines, TV, radio) portrays queer people?

Percent	Response (n=1,952)
1%	Very positive
10%	Mostly positive
60%	Sometimes positive, sometimes negative
23%	Mostly negative
4%	Very negative
1%	I don't know

2. When they watch a movie or TV show that depicts queer people in a negative way, what effect does it have on how they think other people will view their sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,944)
29%	It makes me very worried about how they will think of me
49%	It makes me somewhat worried about how they will think of me
19%	It has no effect
4%	I don't know

3. Does knowing that a celebrity is queer make them feel better about their sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,936)
68%	Yes
32%	No

4. Does knowing that a celebrity is queer help them relate to them better?

Percent	Response (n=1,930)
65%	Yes
35%	No

5. Did they watch the coming out episode of Ellen?

Percent	Response (n=1,936)
63%	Yes
37%	No

6. Who did they watch the show with? *(Asked of those responding "Yes" to question 5).*

Percent	Response (n=1,203)
40%	Alone
31%	With my friends
24%	With my family
6%	With my family and friends

7. Did they use this episode to test their family's attitudes towards queer people? *(Asked of those responding "Yes" to question 5).*

Percent	Response (n=1,192)
29%	Yes
37%	No, I didn't think to do that
34%	No, I didn't want to do that

8. Did they come out to anyone as a result of the Ellen episode? *(Asked of those responding "Yes" to question 5).*

Percent	Response (n=1,199)
10%	Yes
42%	I was already out
49%	No, I didn't tell anyone

9. Have they bought any queer magazines?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
45%	Yes, at a store
7%	Yes, through the mail
49%	No (proceed to question #13)

10. How often have they bought queer magazines? *(Asked of those responding "Yes" to question 9).*

Percent	Response (n=1,003)
21%	Only once
49%	Occasionally
30%	Regularly

11. Which of these magazines have they purchased? *(Asked of those responding "Yes" to question 9; checked all that applied).*

At least once	Regularly	Response (n=1,003)
46%	29%	XY
46%	16%	Out
45%	15%	Sexually-explicit magazines
41%	13%	The Advocate
18%	5%	Genre
10%	4%	Curve

Harassment

1. How many times have they been verbally insulted (yelled at, criticized) because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
37%	Never
12%	Once
16%	Twice
35%	Three or more times

2. How many times have they been threatened with physical violence because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
73%	Never
11%	Once
8%	Twice
8%	Three or more times

3. How many times have they had an object thrown at them because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
86%	Never
6%	Once
4%	Twice
4%	Three or more times

4. How many times have they been punched, kicked or beaten because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
90%	Never
6%	Once
2%	Twice
2%	Three or more times

5. How many times have they been threatened with a knife, gun or another weapon because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
96%	Never
3%	Once
0.4%	Twice
0.2%	Three or more times

6. How many times have they been attacked sexually (forced to have a sexual experience, raped) because they are, or were thought to be, queer?

Male (n=1,525)	Female (n=414)	Response
94%	94%	Never
5%	4%	Once
1%	1%	Twice
1%	1%	Three or more times

7. How many times has someone threatened to tell someone else that they are queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,960)
71%	Never
14%	Once
8%	Twice
7%	Three or more times

Suicide

1. Have they ever seriously thought about taking their own life?

Percent	Response (n=1,953)
32%	Never
28%	Rarely
27%	Sometimes
13%	Often

2. Within the last year, how often have they seriously thought about taking their own life? *(Asked only of those responding other than "Never" to question 1.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,389)
29%	Never (proceed to question #4)
33%	Rarely
24%	Sometimes
13%	Often

3. How much were these thoughts related to being queer? *(Asked only of those responding other than "Never" to questions 1 and 2.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,342)
17%	Very much related
18%	Very related
28%	Somewhat related
19%	Not very related
18%	Not at all related

4. Have they ever tried to kill themself?

Percent	Response (n=1,931)
22%	Yes
78%	No

5. How many times have they tried to kill themself? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=422, mean=2.7 times, median=1.5 times)
38%	1
25%	2
15%	3
7%	4
6%	5
8%	6 or more times

6. How old were they at their first attempt? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=427, mean=14.1 years old)
5%	9 year old or younger
2%	10 years or younger
5%	11 years old
11%	12 years old
15%	13 years old
19%	14 years old
17%	15 years old
14%	16 years old
4%	17 years old
4%	18 years old
3%	19 years old
2%	20 years or older

7. How old were they at their last attempt? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=412, mean=15.8 years old)
1%	10 years old
1%	11 years old
4%	12 years old
9%	13 years old
13%	14 years old
21%	15 years old
17%	16 years old
14%	17 years old

10%	18 years old
5%	19 years old
1%	20 years old
2%	21 years old
1%	22 years old
1%	23 years old

8. Of 1,929 respondents, 9% thought one or more times in the last week about hurting or killing themselves, with this frequency.

Percent	Response (n=370)
68%	I have thought about it once or twice
18%	I have thought about it two or three times
12%	I think about it every day
1%	I think about it so much I can't think of anything else

9. Of those who have ever thought of killing themselves, have they ever gone online when they were feeling suicidal, so that they had someone understanding to talk to?

Percent	Response (n=1,315)
40%	Yes
60%	No

Religion & Spirituality

1. Do they consider themself to be spiritual?

Percent	Response (n=1,949)
51%	Yes
35%	No
14%	I don't know

2. Has their sexuality affected their views on religion?

Percent	Response (n=1,946)
51%	Yes
42%	No
7%	I don't know

3. What do they consider to be their current religious affiliation?

Percent	Response (n=1,926)
24%	Atheist/no religious beliefs
16%	Roman Catholic
15%	I don't know
10%	Other Christian
5%	Other non-Christian
4%	Baptist
4%	Hindu
4%	Wiccan
3%	Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
3%	Lutheran
3%	Muslim
3%	Pagan
2%	Buddhist
2%	Presbyterian
1%	Jewish
1%	Methodist
0.5%	Metropolitan Community Church
0.4%	Episcopalian

4. Have they at any time in their life left or changed their religious affiliation because of its views toward sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,928)
29%	Yes
71%	No

5. Of respondents who changed their religion, what was their original religious affiliation? *(Asked only of those responding "Yes" to question 4.)*

Percent	Response (n=690)
33%	Roman Catholic
17%	Other Christian
14%	Baptist
7%	Methodist
5%	Lutheran
4%	Jewish
4%	I don't know
3%	Atheist/no religious beliefs
3%	Episcopalian
3%	Presbyterian
2%	Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
1%	Wiccan
1%	Other non-Christian
0.3%	Buddhist
0.3%	Metropolitan Community Church
0.3%	Muslim
0.3%	Pagan
0.1%	Hindu

6. Do they question their spirituality because of their sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,867)
40%	Yes
54%	No
6%	I don't know

7. Have their parents' religious beliefs made it more difficult for them to tell them about their sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,878)
40%	Yes
54%	No
6%	I don't know

8. Which of these statements do they agree with? *(Checked all that applied)*

Percent	Response (n=1,939)
49%	I have no doubt that God loves me just as I am
43%	I don't believe that God cares one way or another if we are queer
32%	I believe that God made me queer
27%	I don't believe in God
25%	I don't believe that God judges us
16%	My religious beliefs do not encompass God in this way
9%	I believe that God loves me, but is disappointed that I am queer
4%	I believe that God will condemn me because I am queer
4%	I find it hard to believe that God can love me since I am queer

Who I Am

1. Does talking to others online help them feel better about themself?

Percent	Response (n=1,941)
63%	Yes
16%	No
21%	Maybe

2. Do they believe that they can change their sexual orientation?

Percent	Response (n=1,952)
6%	Yes
78%	No
16%	Maybe

3. Which of these statements most closely says how they feel about being queer?

Percent	Response (n=1,946)
24%	I feel very good about my sexual orientation
46%	I feel good about being queer but wish it just wasn't just a big deal
9%	It doesn't make a difference one way or another to me
12%	I would prefer being heterosexual
4%	I really do not want to be queer
2%	I hate being queer and would do anything to change to heterosexual
1%	I am not gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

4. 57% of 1,940 respondents were both queer and had an opinion on how they came to be queer; their responses are:

Percent	Response (n=1,118)
52%	I was born this way, it was in the genes that my parents passed down to me
31%	I was born this way, it's biological and happened in the womb
8%	I chose to be queer
5%	It's the result of how my parents raised me
2%	I was convinced to be queer by someone else
1%	I was rejected by someone of the opposite gender
1%	I was convinced to become queer by something I read, saw on TV or at the movies

5. If they could change they sexual orientation, would they?

Percent	Response (n=1,951)
60%	No , I am happy with who I am
23%	Maybe
10%	Yes, I want to change it
7%	Yes, but I have tried and failed
1%	Yes, and I believe that I have successfully done so

A self-esteem rating was calculated as a simple additive function of responses to the following statements, where respondents were asked whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree. A rating of 0 is the low, a rating of 16 is the high.

- I feel that I do not have much to be proud of.
- I take a positive attitude toward myself.
- At times, I think I am no good at all.
- On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.

10. Self-esteem rating.

Gay (n=980)	Bi Male (n=351)	Unsure M (n=175)	Lesbian (n=194)	Bi Fem (n=157)	Unsure F (n=47)
12.0	11.9	10.8	12.2	11.8	10.5

Relationships

1. Have they ever dated someone of the same gender?

Percent	Response (n=1,940)
51%	Yes
49%	No

2. How old were they the first time they dated someone of the same gender? *(Asked only of those responding other than "No" to question 1.)*

Percent	Response (n=980 , mean=16.7 years old)
2%	Under 12 years old
2%	12 years old
4%	13 years old
10%	14 years old
13%	15 years old
19%	16 years old
12%	17 years old
18%	18 years old
8%	19 years old
5%	20 years old
3%	21 years old
2%	22 years old
1%	23 years old
1%	Over 23 years old

3. How often do they go on a date with someone of the same gender? *(Asked only of those responding other than "No" to question 1.)*

Percent	Response (n=984)
53%	Once in awhile
15%	Once or twice a month
19%	Once or twice a week
13%	Several times a week

4. Where have they met the people they date of the same gender? *(Asked only of those responding other than "No" to question 1, checked all that applied.)*

Percent	Response (n=984)
55%	Through friends
45%	On the Internet or an online service
28%	Sports activities
26%	Parties
20%	At a queer-related event
19%	At some other social event
19%	In a queer youth group or at a gay/straight alliance at school
11%	Other
6%	At work
	At school *(Asked, but coding error prevented tabulation)*

5. Where do they meet most of the people they date of the same gender? *(Asked only of those responding other than "No" to question 1.)*

Percent	Response (n=971)
24%	Through friends
23%	On the Internet or an online service
18%	At school
13%	Other
8%	In a queer youth group or at a gay/straight alliance at school
5%	Parties
4%	At a queer-related event
3%	At some other social event
1%	Sports activities
1%	At work

6. How many different people of the same gender have they dated in the last year? *(Asked only of those responding other than "No" to question 1.)*

Percent	Response (n=920, mean=3.3 people, median=1.7 people)
33%	1
26%	2
17%	3
8%	4
6%	5
2%	6
1%	7
2%	8
0.2%	9
2%	10
3%	more than 10

7. Have they ever dated someone of the opposite gender?

Percent	Response (n=1,941)
65%	Yes
35%	No

Community

1. Do they feel as though they are a part of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community

Percent	Response (n=1,940)
56%	Yes
44%	No

2. Which of the following organizations are they familiar with? *(Checked all that applied.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,940)
54%	Parents, Families And Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
53%	!OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth
51%	Human Rights Campaign (HRC)
48%	Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF)
33%	American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
33%	National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)
24%	Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD)
15%	Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
13%	National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)
7%	National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
5%	Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN)
5%	Victory Fund

3. Do they know any other queer people in their area?

Percent	Response (n=1,948)
76%	Yes
24%	No

4. Do they know any other queer people around their age?

Percent	Response (n=1,939)
76%	Yes
24%	No

5. Do they think it would be helpful to know an older queer man or woman who might serve as a mentor or role model?

Percent	Response (n=1,936)
68%	Yes
32%	No

6. Do they know any older queer men or women who they view as a role model?

Percent	Response (n=1,939)
35%	Yes
65%	No

7. Have they ever gone to a queer youth group?

Percent	Response (n=1,939)
26%	Yes
74%	No

8. Have they ever visited a queer community center?

Percent	Response (n=1,942)
16%	Yes
84%	No

The Future

1. Do they want to have children some day?

Male (n=1,518)	Female (n=411)	Response
54%	53%	Yes
19%	22%	No
27%	25%	I don't know

2. Would they like to get married to someone of the same gender?

Male (n=1,512)	Female (n=412)	Response
50%	51%	Yes
20%	14%	No
30%	35%	I don't know

3. Do they think that their sexuality will be an obstacle in their life?

Percent	Response (n=1,945)
46%	Yes
30%	No
23%	I don't know

4. Has their sexuality affected their choice of a school?

Percent	Response (n=1,936)
18%	Yes
77%	No
5%	I don't know

5. Has their sexuality affected their choice of a career?

Male (n=1,502)	Female (n=407)	Response
9%	9%	Yes
83%	82%	No
8%	9%	I don't know

6. Has their sexuality affected their choice of where to live?

Percent	Response (n=1,933)
27%	Yes
65%	No
7%	I don't know

7. Have they changed their future goals because of their sexuality?

Percent	Response (n=1,933)
17%	Yes
76%	No
7%	I don't know

8. Which of these statements describes how they hope to spend their future? *(Checked all that applied.)*

Percent	Response (n=1,933)
81%	I plan to just be myself
78%	I hope to be able to live in a committed relationship
75%	I believe that I will achieve the things I set out to do
71%	I want to be able to live my life without having my being queer be an issue
67%	I will not let my being queer get in the way of my dreams
64%	I hope to set an example for others
51%	I want to be openly queer
51%	I hope to have a same-gender spouse
46%	I want to get involved in the queer community
39%	I hope to raise children of my own genes
30%	I hope to live my life quietly, if people know I'm queer, that's alright, but I don't plan to be very open about it